

## The Nature of Latrobe

### A guide to the parks and reserves in the Latrobe Region

Publisher: Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club, 2007. 45 pages,  
20 colour plates. ISBN 9780419702. RRP \$9.95



The book begins with an informative and detailed introduction to the history and geology of the Latrobe Region; the reader is then inspired to explore further. We can thank various field naturalist clubs, conservationists, friends groups and early visionaries, DSE and Parks Victoria for protecting and restoring what is left of the Latrobe region. The history states many intrusions, e.g. coal mining, timber-getting and power station facilities.

Thirty-five parks and reserves are listed, numbered and described. These are linked to the central map and to VicRoads Directory, making locations easy to find.

The first State Park described is Mt Worth, which suffered logging between 1920s and 1940s. We owe its protection now to the

Warragul Field Naturalists Club and Mr Jack Brooks from the Warragul Shire.

Each reserve has a short written history and information on the flora and fauna. This is extremely useful as most parks now do not provide printed material on site.

The facilities, e.g. wheelchair access, toilets available, seats, picnic tables etc., are clearly listed.

Some black and white sketches of flora and fauna add to the charm of the book. There are 20 excellent colour plates, including one of *Caleana major* as an eye-catching front cover, and a magical misty landscape photographed in the Tarra-Bulga National Park on the back cover.

Having visited only eight of the areas listed, I am now totally inspired to explore some of the others.

As many field naturalists and other nature lovers and bird watchers are campers, I would have liked more information on nearby camping facilities, but most of the reserves have telephone numbers provided for further enquiries; and some have provided email addresses. Like all books of the size of this one, the contents have to stop somewhere.

I would like to congratulate the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club for all their hard work and I look forward to exploring this richly diverse habitat in more detail (book in hand) very soon.

I would recommend that all field naturalists clubs in Victoria have a copy of this great book in their libraries, and I would urge people visiting these areas to purchase a copy before their trip.

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